

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 L-03 PM-07 AID-20 IGA-02 PRS-01

SS-20 DRC-01 /130 W

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R 150235Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8241

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1954

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR EAID BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL - HELICOPTERS - PROJECT NO. 482-12-
590-132

REF: (A) RANGOON A-71; (B) RANGOON 1669; (C) STATE 127580;
(D) RANGOON 1635; (E) STATE 126191; (F) STATE 124920;
(G) RANGOON 1565

1. PENDING RECEIPT OF TECHNICAL ORDERS REQUESTED REF G, AND
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL PROMISED REF F PARA 3, WE HAVE BEEN
GIVING FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO PROPOSED TDY BY HALL. WHILE
WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE VISIT BY QUALIFIED TECHNICAL EXPERT,
PRIMARILY TO ADVISE AIRA AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF MISSION RATHER
THAN TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH GUB, WOULD BE USEFUL, WE HAVE CON-
CLUDED IN LIGHT OF HALL'S EXPERIENCES IN BURMA DURING THAI
HELICOPTER EPISODE THAT SOME OTHER PERSON WOULD BE PREFERABLE.

2. HALL'S THAI EXPERIENCE WOULD BE VALUABLE AND WE WOULD BE
GRATEFUL FOR ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS HE HAS TO OFFER ON
DEVELOPMENT OF BURMA PROGRAM, HOWEVER, WE THINK IT WOULD BE
AN UNNECESSARY HAZARD TO THE COOPERATIVENESS WHICH BURMA AIR
FORCE HAS THUS FAR DISPLAYED TO SUGGEST BRINGING IN A PERSON WHO
HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO DETENTION AND INTERROGATION BY BURMESE
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MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOLLOWING THAI HELICOPTER EPISODE. GUB WOULD

PROBABLY NOT OFFER ANY OVERT OBJECTION, BUT ITS FAILURE TO DO SO
COULD NOT BE TAKEN AS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO EM-
BARRASSMENT OR CONSTRAINT INVOLVED BY HALL'S PRESENCE.

3. WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE STATE AND AID/W COOPERATING TO
IDENTIFY ONE OR MORE OTHER SPECIALISTS WHO MIGHT BE AVAILABLE
FOR ONE TO TWO WEEKS' TDY SOME TIME DURING NEXT TWO MONTHS. IN
THIS CONNECTION, REQUIREMENT IS FOR INDIVIDUAL THOROUGHLY FAM-
ILIAR WITH MAINTENANCE OF UH-1H UNDER AUSTERE FIELD CONDITIONS.

4. OUR IMMEDIATE PRIORITY IS TO DEVELOP, IN COOPERATION WITH BAF,
INITIAL SPARES SUPPORT LISTING SO AS TO PERMIT EARLIEST POSSIBLE
EXECUTION OF PIO/C AND CONTRACT WITH BELL. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOW-
ING WHETHER ANY ACTION YET TAKEN TO RESERVE PRODUCTION LINE SPARES,
WHICH IT WOULD APPEAR NEED NOT AWAIT PREPARATION OF DETAILED LIST
OF SPARES.

5. SECOND PRIORITY IS TO IDENTIFY EXACT NATURE AND DURATION OF
COURSES IN US NEEDED TO MEET BAF REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINING PILOTS
AND GROUND CREW. FOR THIS PURPOSE, REQUEST REPLY SOONEST TO
REF B.

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